



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Jefferson Parish, LA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Jefferson Parish for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Jefferson Parish is a suburb of New Orleans and is the second largest parish in Louisiana with a population of more than 300,000. The parish is bisected by an American Heritage River, the Mississippi. The east bank has little land available for new development, and hurricane protection systems, wetlands, and flood levees limit development on the west bank. The parish's brownfields can be traced to intense industrial and commercial development associated with Mississippi River commerce that has since declined.

Lower-income minority neighborhoods are clustered near Jefferson Parish's brownfields. Despite accelerated growth during the last half of the 20th century, the parish is experiencing nearly flat growth as its population moves to more rural parishes. Many commercial and industrial properties have been abandoned as businesses move to greenfields. Jefferson Parish plans to work with neighboring Pilots to share public participation models, coordinate brownfields databases, and partner on funding proposals.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields located along the Mississippi River, which was once the location of thriving businesses based on commerce from the river.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

Jefferson Parish plans to return at least three brownfields to productive reuse by 2006. The Jefferson Parish Pilot will build on work begun by the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission Pilot (awarded in 1999). The Pilot has already identified four brownfields for potential Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments. The Pilot will convene a brownfields task force to identify more sites and prioritize them for assessments. The task force, which will be made up of 15 elected citizens as well as 15 technical and economic advisors, will select six sites for Phase I assessments. The three highest priority sites will proceed to Phase II assessments. The Pilot plans to develop cleanup and reuse plans for these sites.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Holding meetings to introduce parish residents to the brownfields project and to solicit their input, with a special commitment to reaching out to environmental justice communities;
- Convening a brownfields redevelopment task force comprised of citizens and technical and economic advisors who serve as the primary decision-making body of the project;
- Conducting six Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments of priority sites; and
- Developing cleanup and reuse plans for the three priority sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.